

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, yesterday I missed rollcall vote No. 434 on H.R. 4514, rollcall vote No. 435 on H.R. 4438, and rollcall vote No. 436 on H. Res. 4773. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each of these rollcall votes.

COMMEMORATING THE DETROIT
SPORTSMEN'S CONGRESS ON
CELEBRATING ITS 75TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a special anniversary celebration for an important organization headquartered in my district in the Charter Township of Shelby. In September 2011, the Detroit Sportsmen's Congress, DSC, will mark its 75th Anniversary. This group has already started preparations to properly recognize this historic achievement. The organization traces its inception back to the year 1936 in the City of Detroit. And over time, it has grown into perhaps one of the nation's most distinguished conservation and sportsmen's groups.

The Detroit Sportsmen's Congress has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to preserve the natural treasures and pristine resources we are so blessed to live with in the State of Michigan. The DSC has offered a variety of educational programs for adults, children and the community at-large and has exhibited a strong record promoting conversation and safety. As a Member of the Homeland Security, I also want to applaud the group for offering its training facilities to local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. This is just one of the many examples of how the DSC is serving the people of Metropolitan Detroit.

The Wolverine State abounds with so many wonderful opportunities and recreational activities like hunting, competitive target shooting, fishing, and boating. From the ATV trails to the banks of the magnificent rivers and all across this splendid peninsula, you can find people enjoying some type of leisure and pleasure in the great outdoors. These activities provide a tremendous boost to our quality of life and allow families to spend time together. Building memories with loved ones and handing down family traditions to the next generation are some of the most priceless moments we can hold dear and cherish.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the financial contributions these activities offer to the local and state economy. It is absolutely vital we protect and enhance our environment for not only future preservation, but also the benefits they offer to individuals who depend on them for their livelihoods and careers.

Madam Speaker, I am a water enthusiast and grew up sailing the Great Lakes. In fact, I have made the Great Lakes one of my principle advocacies since being elected to office. Therefore, I appreciate the hard work exhib-

ited by the DSC and its membership both past and present.

Moreover, I am always reminded of my oath to defend the United States Constitution, so safeguarding the Second Amendment is something I take very seriously. That is why supporting legislation which protects law-abiding citizens ability to keep and bear arms is something I will continue to fight for as long as I have the privilege to serve in this Chamber.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the Detroit Sportsmen's Congress for their dedicated efforts to educate people about our rights, our heritage and our environment. The DSC and its affiliates are providing a vital service to the community and continuing what is the strong tradition of sportsmen residing in Michigan.

It is here I am reminded of the words of our nation's 26th President, Theodore Roosevelt, who once said, "To waste, destroy our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed." I too would agree we have an obligation to leave the next generation with improved natural resources and even more opportunities in life than what we inherited. This is the ultimate goal and the reason we go to work each day.

Once again, I extend my best wishes to the Detroit Sportsmen's Congress on its upcoming 75th Anniversary. It is my distinct honor to represent this organization in the United States House of Representatives and to commemorate this notable achievement. Happy 75th Anniversary to the Detroit Sportsmen's Congress.

LACKLAND GATEWAY HERITAGE
FOUNDATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Lackland Gateway Heritage Foundation for their dedication to memorializing the proud heritage, tradition of honor, and legacy of valor of our country's Air Force and the countless sacrifices and contributions that our airmen make to defend and preserve the freedom of this nation. Since 2003, the foundation has been working tirelessly in their efforts to pay tribute to our enlisted airman.

Thanks to the vision of the Lackland Gateway Heritage Foundation, efforts for a modern museum are underway at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas to commemorate the transformation of young men and women into patriotic military professionals and leaders. The United States Air Force Airman Heritage Museum aims to make San Antonio the prime destination for those seeking to learn, understand, and admire the Air Force's history and traditions, providing an educational opportunity for the thousands who already visit Lackland Air Force Base and the many more who will do so in the future.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Lackland Gateway Heritage Foundation as we recognize their noble efforts to memorialize the heritage of our United States Airmen.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF ALAN
REUTHER, LEGISLATIVE DIREC-
TOR OF THE UNITED AUTO
WORKERS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, after thirty-three years of dedicated service, Alan Reuther is retiring from his position as legislative director with the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, UAW. As legislative director, he has been responsible for supervising all aspects of the UAW's legislative program, including development of issues, presentation of testimony, lobbying Members of Congress, and grassroots organizing.

During his tenure at the UAW, Alan championed significant legislative accomplishments, including: saving civil legal services for the poor, which were slated for elimination under the Gingrich "Contract for America"; the enactment of minimum wage increases in 1996 and again in 2007; halting efforts by the Bush Administration and Congressional Republicans to privatize Social Security; the enactment of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, SCHIP, in 1997 and its expansion in 2009; the enactment of compromise Corporate Average Fuel Economy legislation in 2007 that included the Section 136 program to fund investment in U.S. production of advanced technology vehicles; fending off repeated attempts by the Bush Administration to erode the protections of the Fair Labor Standards Act; the enactment of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 and hate crimes prevention legislation; the enactment of federal extended unemployment benefits in economic recessions; and finally, the enactment of both the stimulus provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and health care reform.

As chair of the Workforce Protections Subcommittee, I know first-hand the significance of Alan's accomplishments on behalf of the American worker. Just to use one recent example, my Subcommittee held the legislative hearing on the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. This was the first piece of legislation that President Obama signed into law after he took office, and it is a significant step in the fight to achieve equal pay between men and women. In addition, tireless work in the passage of health care reform cannot be understated. Congratulations, Alan, and thank you for your contributions to the public good. You will be missed—that's for sure.

HONORING ANGELO PLAKAS

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the extraordinary life of Angelo Plakas and to mourn him upon his passing at the age of 70.

Born on August 2, 1939, Angelo Plakas dedicated his life to serving his community and his country. After graduating from the University of Detroit in 1960, Angelo taught elementary school before returning to school himself to pursue a law degree. He graduated